

**Minutes of  
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
January 18, 2008 (Sixth Meeting), 1:30 p.m.  
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices  
Columbia, South Carolina**

*In attendance:*

**Study Committee Members Present**

Mr. Daniel Ravenel, *Chair*  
Mr. Boone Aiken (by phone)  
Col. Claude Eichelberger  
Representative Jerry Govan  
Dr. Dori Helms  
Mr. Scott Ludlow  
Dr. Layton McCurdy  
Dr. John Montgomery  
Mr. Bobby Marlowe

**Study Committee Members Absent**

none

**CHE Staff**

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Camille Brown  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons  
Ms. Alyson Goff  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Dr. Mike Raley  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Ms. Karen Wham  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests:**

Dr. Dewitt Stone  
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges &  
Universities  
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University  
Ms. Robin Moseley, Senate Education  
Committee  
Mr. Eddie Shannon, S. C. Tuition Grants

*Agenda Item 1, Call to Order and Introductions*

Mr. Daniel Ravenel called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. All committee members, guests, and Commission on Higher Education staff introduced themselves and their attendance was noted for the record.

*Agenda Item 2, Consideration of Minutes of the December 3, 2007, Meeting*

The minutes from the December 3 meeting were approved.

*Agenda Item 3, Discussion, Advisory Group Progress Updates*

Dr. Dori Helms provided an update from the Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning Advisory Group. Dr. Helms reported that the group had held two meetings, the second of which had taken place at 9:00 a.m. that morning. She stated that the institutions had been canvassed in an effort to determine what their areas of concentration are and that CHE staff had examined the distribution, production, and diversity of degrees. It has been determined that there is not currently a great deal of unnecessary duplication in these areas. The group has asked the Strom Thurmond Institute to take a look at what the state's educational needs and growth patterns will be by the year 2020. Dr. Helms reported her group had determined that current institutional missions are as they should be. They recommend that, once a statewide plan for higher education has been developed, institutions should develop a second mission statement, which indicates what each of their roles might be in accomplishing that plan. The advisory group has also spent some time considering the roles of K-12 and higher education in the improvement of teacher education. This advisory group plans to meet again in February to finalize their report.

Discussion followed in which the disparities along the I-95 corridor were noted, as was the state's need for additional teachers and nurses. Deficiencies in these areas were attributed to the lack of recurring funding. Representative Govan urged the group to make sure that information is included in the group's final recommendation. A copy of various graphs denoting by degree level the availability of programs at each institution will be sent to each of the HESC members.

Mr. Bobby Marlowe provided an update from the Organization and Plan Implementation Advisory Group. The written recommendations of this group, a copy of which are provided with these minutes, were distributed for review. A summary of those recommendations is found on page three of their report. In short, this group advocates: 1) that South Carolina not adopt a Board of Regents structure, but maintain a central authority; 2) that the question of whether CHE authority should be modified to enhance the implementation of a statewide higher education plan be considered by the entire HESC; 3) that the composition of the CHE be revised to include membership that is elected by the General Assembly as a whole as well as membership that is appointed by the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; and 4) that the Council of Presidents be re-convened by the CHE and meet at least twice annually.

Discussion followed in which the topic of CHE authority was considered at some length. Toward the conclusion of that discussion, Mr. Ravenel noted that it would be important for the institutions to be willing to work cooperatively with the HESC's final recommendations.

Dr. Layton McCurdy provided an update from the Enrollment Advisory Group. He stated that his group has met on two occasions and has been considering the issues of how to get more South Carolinians to go to college as well as how to provide incentives to out-of-state students who graduate to remain in the state. In response to a letter he sent to the Presidents which invited their input, Dr. McCurdy reported that the committee is in the process of receiving and compiling that information. He stated that there are three ways to capture unclaimed potential colleges students in South Carolina. They are: 1) increase the state's number of high school graduates; 2) work harder to encourage high school dropouts to get their GED, then go on to college; and 3) find ways to motivate adults who have not yet completed their degrees to do so.

Discussion followed in which it was suggested that: 1) the required SAT score for scholarships be lowered in order that more students might be eligible; 2) colleges students and faculty interact in efforts to assist failing K-12 schools; 3) we consider whether the SAT should be used as the predicator of success; and 4) the Council of Presidents meet more frequently.

Mr. Scott Ludlow provided an update from the Funding and Institutional Cost Advisory Group. Mr. Ludlow stated that his group supported market-based tuition infrastructure, and that institutions should do a better job of disclosing how their money is used. He also stated that the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) formula should include all of the institution's unrestricted resources. He suggested looking at a private institution model and recommended Furman University's budget document as a model to consider in this regard.)

The Committee then decided to move to agenda item 4 before concluding the reports.

*Agenda Item 4, Discussion of a Plan and Timeline for Completing the Study Committee's Work*

Dr. Garrison Walters distributed and reviewed a document, which described a plan and timeline for completing the work of the HESC as well as for the implementation of that plan, a copy of which is included with these minutes. In summary, the plan recommends reporting the HESC's recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by May 1, 2008, with the goal of providing details on plan

implementation by September 15. Mr. Ravenel informed members about his conversation with Senator Courson regarding the study committee's progress to date and the reporting deadline.

Following discussion, a motion was made (McCurdy), seconded (Eichelberger), and carried to approve the plan and timeline as presented.

*The Committee returned to Agenda Item 3 to conclude the progress reports.*

Dr. John Montgomery provided an update from the Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology Advisory Group. Dr. Montgomery stated that his group reported no current compelling shortages of facilities and space at the institutions. They do have several concerns at this time, however. Those concerns are: 1) addressing facilities and space needs which exist along the I-95 corridor; 2) addressing current deferred maintenance needs which amount to almost \$800 million and capital needs, 3) considering the possibility of consolidating administrative computing either regionally or by total outsourcing; and 4) addressing space needs if enrollments grow significantly.

Representative Jerry Govan then provided an update from the State Scholarships and Grants Advisory Group. He reported that his group had met four times in November and December. Information which they solicited from parents, students, and financial aid officers, as well as data they received from CHE staff, has led them to the conclusion that the scholarship programs are helping a large number of students. However, tuition increases have left many with significant need. Conclusions from their work include: 1) current scholarships are not meeting needs and the allocation for need-based aid should be increased; 2) the need-based grant allocation methodology should be changed to use Pell grant eligibility as a pre-requisite for distribution of funds; 3) a marketing plan should be developed and funded to encourage early submission of FAFSA forms from our poorer students; 4) a statewide data system which tracks student indebtedness is needed; 5) a state committee which would remain responsive to changes in our economy should be established; and 6) increased funding for the Lottery Assistance Program should be requested along with the inclusion of language directing that any remaining program funds go toward student book allowances (not to exceed \$300 per student).

Discussion followed in which Dr. Helms suggested that if a student remains at a certain percentage above the average grade point ratio of his/her particular institution, the student would be eligible to retain his/her LIFE scholarship.

*Agenda Item 5, Consideration of a request to delay the date by which recommendations are to be submitted to the General Assembly*

A motion was made (McCurdy), seconded (Montgomery), and carried that Mr. Ravenel and Dr. Walters write a letter to Senator Courson requesting a delay in the date by which the HESC's recommendations are to be submitted to the General Assembly.

*Agenda Item 6, Other Business*

None.

*Agenda Item 7, Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.